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DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-fifth session, held at Ankara from 2 to 6 October 1989

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Working languages of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1988/14 of 25 May 1988 and its decision 1989/120 of 22 May 1989, by which it authorized the enlargement of the membership of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East,

"Noting that, of a total membership of fourteen States, eight, namely Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Yemen Arab Republic, have Arabic as their official language,

"1. Decides that the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East shall use both English and Arabic as its working languages for future sessions;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to adopt the necessary measures and provide the financial resources required for the implementation of this resolution."

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Reduction of demand and prevention of drug consumption among young persons in the Near and Middle East*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/121 of 8 December 1988 on the use of children in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and rehabilitation of drug-addicted minors, in which the General Assembly calls for,

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*See paragraphs 54 and 55 below.

inter alia, the adoption of various urgent measures and national and international programmes to protect children from the illicit consumption of drugs and from involvement in illicit production and distribution,

"Bearing in mind the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and other relevant international normative pronouncements concerning protection of the rights and well-being of young persons,

"1. Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs, as a matter of priority, to devise, within such regular or extrabudgetary resources as may become available, comprehensive policies, programmes and strategies to prevent and reduce the abuse of drugs by children;

"2. Further requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs to design model programmes and manuals for prevention of drug abuse among children and adolescents in the Near and Middle East;

"3. Invites interested Member States to provide financial support and relevant organizations to collaborate closely with the Division of Narcotic Drugs in this activity.

"1/ E/CN.4/1989/29 and Corr.1."

B. Draft decision to be recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

2. The Sub-Commission recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the approval of the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

DRAFT DECISION

Membership of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

"At its ... plenary meeting, on .... 1989, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the report of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on its twenty-fifth session and the relevant part of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its eleventh special session, decided to approve the application by Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic for membership in the Sub-Commission."

C. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

3. The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommends to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

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*See paragraph 56 below.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Provisional application of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling resolution 2 of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1/ and Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/13 of 22 May 1989,

Considering the need to bring the Convention into force as soon as possible,

Urges States members of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to initiate steps for expeditious ratification of the Convention and for the provisional application of its substantive provisions, pending its entry into force, and to initiate the necessary administrative and legislative measures for implementation of the provisions as early as possible and preferably within a given time-frame.

1/ E/CONF.82/14, annex.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Measures for reducing the demand for illicit drugs in consuming countries**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering that any strategy or measures for combating illicit traffic and for bringing about any significant reduction in the supply of illicit drugs cannot be successful unless they are concurrently complemented and supported by measures taken for ensuring reduction in the demand for such drugs,

Invites the attention of the consuming countries to the need to take urgent and effective measures for ensuring substantial reduction in the demand for and consumption of such drugs in their countries.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Intensified countermeasures against illicit drug traffic in the region***

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Considering the recent expansion of the membership of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East,

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*See paragraphs 57 and 58 below.

**See paragraphs 57 and 59 below.

***See paragraphs 57 and 60 below.

Noting that all states members of the Sub-Commission are increasingly affected by illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as source, transit or consuming countries,

Urges all States of the Near and Middle East region to co-operate more closely in mounting a well-co-ordinated, intensified and sustained campaign, and countermeasures, against illicit traffic in the region and, for this purpose, to establish arrangements for an expeditious exchange of information of an operational and intelligence nature, such as that relating to seizures of drugs, particulars of drug trafficking gangs and syndicates, their modus operandi, routes followed etc., and also to identify and nominate a nodal agency to facilitate and co-ordinate the exchange of such information and intelligence reports.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Trafficking in and abuse of fenetylline*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its decision 3 (XXXIII) of 17 February 1989 1/ on the problem of abuse of and illicit traffic in fenetylline in the Near and Middle East,

Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs, in co-operation with, and with the financial support of, the States and agencies concerned, to convene a round-table meeting, as soon as possible, in order to examine fully the problems associated with the abuse of and illicit traffic in fenetylline in the Near and Middle East, the results of which should be brought to the attention of the Sub-Commission.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 5 (E/1989/23 - E/CN.7/1989/21), chap. X, sect. B.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Establishment and linkage of a computer network between law enforcement authorities of States members of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling articles 10 and 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1/ adopted on 19 December 1988,

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*See paragraphs 57 and 61 below.

**See paragraphs 57 and 62 below.

Convinced that successful combat against the scourge of illicit trafficking in the region can only be achieved through close co-operation and exchange of information among the members of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East,

1. Urges the establishment and linkage of a computer network between the relevant law enforcement authorities of the States members of the Sub-Commission;

2. Requests the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to provide the necessary funds for the establishment of such a system.

1/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Establishment of a subregional laboratory in the area covered by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Emphasizing the need for training of drug laboratory personnel in the area covered by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, one of the regions most affected by illicit drugs,

1. Calls for the establishment of a subregional drug laboratory, with the agreement of the States in the region, by which regular training would be provided on the basis of international standards;

2. Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs to initiate steps to establish the subregional laboratory relying on extrabudgetary resources;

3. Invites the States concerned to make available the necessary resources for the establishment of the laboratory.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Exchange of drug liaison officers among States members of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Aware of the need to strengthen regional co-operation between law enforcement agencies, especially in the collection and exchange of operational drug law enforcement intelligence information, on a case-by-case basis, and to facilitate the effective application of such investigative techniques as controlled delivery,

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*See paragraphs 57 and 63 below.

**See paragraphs 57 and 64 below.

Bearing in mind article 9 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1/ adopted in 1988, that would require States parties to the Convention to co-operate closely with one another, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of counteraction by law enforcement agencies,

Invites Governments of member States of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East to consider the exchange of drug liaison officers.

1/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

Eradication of illicit crops in the area covered by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Alarmed at the increased illicit cultivation of the opium poppy in the area covered by the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East,

1. Invites all States in the region to support and provide the necessary facilities for the survey of areas of illicit poppy cultivation, with the financial support of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;

2. Requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs to take the necessary measures to develop a methodology for identifying areas of illicit poppy cultivation in the region;

3. Further requests the Division of Narcotic Drugs to report to the Sub-Commission at its twenty-seventh session on the implementation of this resolution.

D. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East**

4. At its 8th meeting, the Sub-Commission adopted a decision setting out the following provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Review of recent regional trends in illicit drug traffic.

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*See paragraphs 57 and 63 below.

**See paragraph 65 below.

4. Regional measures to suppress illicit drug trafficking and reduce illicit demand.

5. Psychotropic substances, including fenetylline.

6. Eradication of illicit crops.

7. Other business.

8. Adoption of the report.

E. Venue for the twenty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission

5. The Sub-Commission draws to the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the offer by the Islamic Republic of Iran to act as host to the Sub-Commission at Teheran at its twenty-seventh session.*

II. REVIEW OF RECENT REGIONAL TRENDS IN THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

6. For its discussion of item 3, on recent regional trends in the illicit drug traffic, the Sub-Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat (DND/25.SC/1989/5).

7. All the speakers expressed concern at the growing extent of drug abuse and illicit traffic, from which no country was immune. Concerted regional action was deemed imperative. Referring to the situation in their respective countries, many speakers provided details on recent trends in drug abuse and trafficking. Several presented their countries as being mainly transit States, owing to their geographical position in relation to producer and consumer countries, and explained some of the problems encountered by their respective countries as a result. In some cases transit traffic had resulted in a spillover problem, causing drug addiction.

8. The international trafficking in opium, which in recent years had been gradually declining, had increased significantly in the past two years owing to the increase in production. It was noted that seizures had increased by 50 per cent in 1987 compared with 1986, and by nearly 40 per cent in 1988 compared with 1987. Significant seizures had been reported in the region, particularly by Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan.

9. The surge in morphine traffic recorded in 1988 had continued in the current year. Major seizures had been effected in Turkey; and the Pakistan authorities had dismantled a morphine tableting factory, seizing 2,200 tablets on the site.

10. Heroin continued to be the most commonly abused opiate. The increase in demand and high profits had contributed to its production on a very large scale. Thus, in spite of effective law enforcement action, trafficking in heroin continued, and large quantitites had been intercepted in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey. The transit traffic of heroin into India from the south-east Asian region continued unabated. In spite of

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*See paragraph 78 below.

record seizures in the region, traffickers had nevertheless succeeded in transporting substantial amounts to Western Europe, mainly over the Balkan route. Significant seizures of heroin from the Near and Middle East had been made in France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A large part of the heroin seized in Sweden had originated from or transited through the Golden Crescent.

11. Several speakers reported the dismantling of clandestine laboratories, used mainly for the manufacture of morphine and heroin, in their countries. Raw opium, heroin and acetic anhydride had also been seized.

12. Recent seizures of increasing amounts of heroin base in some countries of the region indicated that acetic anhydride, or other essential chemicals, needed to convert opium to heroin base, were available to clandestine laboratories. In order to check the illicit movement of acetic anydride, the Government of India had identified a zone of 100 kilometres from the Indo-Burmese border as a specified area under the Customs Act of 1962 for purposes of preventing the illicit export of acetic anhydride and for its interdiction.

13. The observer for the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) drew the attention of the Sub-Commission to the adulteration of heroin with psychotropic substances, particularly methaqualone and other barbiturates. In 1986, he said, the Government of Pakistan had informed the Board that phenobarbital had been diverted from illicit channels and used for the adulteration of heroin, leading to poly-drug abuse in Pakistan. Since 1985, substantial quantities of phenobarbital exported to Afghanistan and Pakistan had been diverted for illicit purposes. Heroin of south-west Asian origin seized in several countries, such as Bulgaria, France, Italy, Nigeria, Turkey, the United States of America and Yugoslavia, had been found to contain phenobarbital. The Board had drawn the attention of Governments to that development and had urged that tighter controls be imposed on exports.

14. Cannabis, in various forms, continued to be abused and trafficked on a large scale in several countries of the region. Europe and North America remained the main consumer markets, the principal regions of production being the Near and Middle East, South-East Asia, Central and South America. Large seizures had been reported by Afghanistan, Egypt, India and Pakistan. Some speakers referred to effective law enforcement operations carried out against illicit cannabis cultivation in their countries.

15. While the principal market for cocaine still remained the United States, sustained efforts were being made by traffickers to find other markets. Seizures had been reported by Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Togo and Uganda. It was reported that cocaine seizures had increased by 200 per cent in Sweden. There was evidence that cocaine was being smuggled from South America to the Near and Middle East; mention was made of the interception by Danish authorities of important consignments of cocaine from Brazil, destined for Damascus.

16. With regard to the illicit supply of drugs, some speakers pointed to the comprehensive control measures taken to prevent illicit cannabis and poppy cultivation. Some other speakers referred to the elimination of illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis in their countries. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that opium poppy cultivation had been completely eradicated following the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979; the representative of Pakistan commented on the successful efforts to eradicate opium production at its source. The measures taken by the Governments of India and Turkey to safeguard their opium poppy cultivation were mentioned.

To tighten further the control on diversion from licit poppy cultivation in India, offences relating to the diversion of opium by licensed cultivators had been put on a par with other drug trafficking offences. One representative indicated that poppy cultivation in Upper Egypt and the Sinai Desert had been significantly curtailed following intensive eradication efforts by the Egyptian authorities. Some speakers drew attention to the stringent penalties, including capital punishment, provided in their national legislation for the illicit cultivation of cannabis or the opium poppy.

17. It was reported that psychotropic substances, particularly fenetylline, often found on the illicit market in the form of the preparation Captagon (R), were the object of considerable abuse, traffic and transit in the region. It was mentioned that Captagon tablets were transiting through Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic from Turkey's western frontiers to the other States of the region. Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey reported important seizures of Captagon tablets. The representative of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/INTERPOL) informed the meeting of the seizure in Cyprus of two tons of Captagon tablets, allegedly manufactured in Bulgaria, from the cargo vessel Star, which had sailed from Bar, Yugoslavia. Some participants referred to the widespread seizure of adulterated Captagon on the illicit market. It was proposed that samples of such substances should be provided to the United Nations (Division of Narcotic Drugs, Narcotics Laboratory) for analysis with a view to determining their chemical compostion and country of origin.

18. In Europe, the Scandinavian countries remained the primary consumer market for amphetamines illicitly produced in Central Europe. The amphetamine profiling project, the aim of which was to discover the origin of smuggled amphetamine by examining all seizures forensically, had indicated that 80 per cent of the amphetamines seized in Sweden came from the Netherlands and 20 per cent from Poland. Abuse of and traffic in amphetamines were reported in Egypt and Sweden.

19. The clandestine manufacture of methaqualone remained a problem in India; production of the substance had been banned in 1984. Methaqualone preparations, known by the brand name Mandrax, manufactured illicitly and being trafficked to some African countries, continued to be seized by Indian enforcement agencies. It was reported that Sudan, which was emerging as a major transit country for different illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, had intercepted over one million secobarbital tablets destined for the Near and Middle East.

20. Many speakers reported on their national law enforcement activities and on the extent of illicit trafficking, described new trends and highlighted the operational successes of their law enforcement agencies. In order to intensify the fight against drug trafficking, in particular by strengthening enforcement machinery at vulnerable points, the representative of India indicated, inter alia, that drug traffickers operating in areas characterized as highly vulnerable to illicit trafficking could be subject to preventive detention for up to two years. He also described other recent legislative measures against drug traffickers, including imposition of the death penalty for second or subsequent offences in certain cases and for the tracing, freezing and forfeiture of the assets of drug traffickers. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported major operational successes on his country's eastern desert borders, against heavily armed traffickers, which had resulted in the seizure of large amounts of opium, the arrest of major traffickers and the dismantling of drug syndicates. He indicated that, as a result of the successful campaign against drug traffickers, prices on the illicit market had increased tenfold and traf-

ficking routes had tended to shift southwards towards the Gulf region. Successful joint law enforcement operations undertaken along the Syrian/ Jordanian borders were highlighted. Several participants referred to the new detection and investigative techniques adopted to counter drug trafficking, such as the use of specialized units, undercover agents and informers. Attention was drawn to successful results obtained from the use of sniffer dogs at some of Turkey's border crossings and to the use of electronic detecting equipment at airports in Pakistan.

21. Several speakers reported that existing national drug control administrations in their countries had been restructured or strengthened. Several mentioned the creation of new drug-law enforcement organs dealing with illicit traffic. The establishment of a central co-ordinating agency was reported by some representatives, while others referred to the creation of services dealing with specific aspects of drug criminality.

22. One representative expressed satisfaction at the fact that several other countries now attached importance to the links between illicit traffic, international terrorism, subersive activities and other organized crime.

23. Several speakers commented on the trafficking routes and the modus operandi adopted by drug traffickers. Particular reference was made to the Balkan route. It was noted that the economic and commercial relations between the West European and Middle East countries had increased the importance of that route, specially for transport international routier (TIR) trucks. The sheer number of TIR trucks and the great distances to be controlled created major difficulties for drug law enforcement authoritites. Turkey was commended on the pivotal role it played on that route in intercepting large illicit consignments, dismantling clandestine laboratories and providing valuable information and co-operation to other countries, thereby facilitating the seizures of major consignments and the elimination of some important trafficking organizations in Europe.

24. The representative of Egypt informed the meeting that the traditional smuggling route across the Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts and via the Sinai peninsula was being abandoned by major traffickers as a result of vigorous law enforcement activities. The new route, particularly for large consignments of hashish, involved the transport of illicit consignments across the Mediterranean Sea, through the Suez Canal to the Red Sea, or around the Cape of Good Hope, to a landing point on the Sudanese coast. The illicit consignments would then be smuggled by armed gangs into Egypt across the land route.

25. Several speakers referred to the increasing use of African nationals, particularly Nigerians and Ghanaians, in the smuggling of heroin from Pakistan and India to Europe via Africa. It was claimed that during the first six months of 1989 they had cumulatively accounted for the transport of about half a ton of heroin to different destinations. One representative informed the Sub-Commission of the marked involvement of African nationals in the smuggling of heroin from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan into Sweden and other Nordic countries. It was observed that African drug couriers were involved in a constant search for new routes through China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, the Far East or Africa, and for new modus operandi.

26. The meeting was informed that, in order to tackle the problem, which had given rise to serious heroin addiction in Africa, ICPO/INTERPOL, in co-operation with the Government of Kenya, had organized a meeting of heads of drug law enforcement services (HONLEA) for Europe, North America, Africa and the Asian sub-continent, which had been held at Nairobi in June 1989.

27. Several speakers pointed to the concern of their Governments at the difficulty encountered by their law enforcement authorities in controlling numerous points of entry over land, water and air approaches to their countries. A particular problem concerned the use of containers and commercial carriers for the concealment of illicit consignments of drugs. The meeting was informed of the countermeasures taken by Pakistan against the illicit movement of narcotics by commercial airlines, and measures taken by Jordan, Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic to deter drug trafficking by TIR trucks.

28. Several speakers informed the meeting that legislation in their countries was being amended to bring its provisions into line with those of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1/ adopted in 1988; other representatives indicated that several provisions of the new Convention were already covered by their national legislation. Several speakers observed that new legislation had been adopted in order to provide more stringent penalties, including the death penalty, to serve as a deterrent to drug traffickers. A number of speakers referred to the adoption of legislative measures to counter the economic power of drug traffickers by confiscating property and assets derived from drug trafficking.

29. Several speakers emphasized the importance their Governments attached to programmes for reducing demand through the preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents, as a necessary complement to programmes for reducing supply through law enforcement. A number gave details on drug prevention campaigns involving the media and emphasized the need for more public awareness, particularly in schools, of the dangers of drug abuse.

30. Several speakers emphasized the importance their Governments and organizations attached to achieving closer co-operation with States in the region and with United Nations agencies in their fight against drug trafficking. Many referred to regional agreements or forms of co-operation and reported on the positive results achieved through such channels. The setting up of a technical committee on drugs under the auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was referred to by some representatives. The representative of India announced that his Government would be acting as host to a meeting of members of SAARC on harmonization of drug laws in the SAARC countries, in December 1989. Mention was also made of regional meetings between the heads of national law enforcement agencies, under the aegis of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, for the co-ordination of activities. The need for enhanced co-operation at the operational level, and particularly for a rapid exchange of relevant information by telefax, direct telephone or telex lines, was emphasized. Some speakers referred to the benefits derived from the posting of drug liaison officers, particularly in the dismantling of international drug trafficking syndicates.

31. One representative indicated that his Government was prepared to co-operate in providing field and laboratory training for countries of the region. The meeting was informed of the long-term Arab training strategy for drug law enforcement worked out by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and implemented by the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre at Riyadh.

III. REGIONAL MEASURES TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC

32. For its consideration of item 4, on regional measures to combat the illicit drug traffic, the Sub-Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat (DND/25.SC/1989/6).

33. All the speakers stressed the paramount importance of regional co-operation in combating illicit drug trafficking. Co-ordinated regional policies and action between Governments of the region were necessary in order to tackle the escalating problem of illicit traffic, which had reached a critical stage. Several representatives indicated that their Governments were prepared to enter into bilateral agreements or arrangements with other States of the region so as to enhance co-operation within the region.

34. With regard to regional measures to combat the illicit drug traffic, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the Sub-Commission should focus on the identification of areas of possible illicit poppy cultivation, the establishment of a regional laboratory and, with reference to article 24 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1/ adopted at Vienna, in December 1988, the application of the strictest possible measures to monitor substances used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

35. Pointing to the alarming increase in the quantities of opium and heroin seized in the region, he stressed the urgent need to identify illicit poppy cultivation. To that end he proposed that two approaches be followed in line with those discussed at the twentieth session of the Sub-Commission, held at Teheran in 1985: first, the analysis of samples of seized opium to determine their origin; and second, the survey, by the use of teledetection, of land areas where the opium poppy was believed to be cultivated illicitly. He observed that if there was agreement between States of the region for such surveys to be carried out over the whole area covered by the Sub-Commission, his country was prepared to be the first one to be surveyed. He also indicated that his Government was prepared to co-operate with the Division of Narcotic Drugs and to provide the necessary facilities to that end.

36. In view of the availability of substances used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, it was suggested that measures to monitor such substances, particularly acetic anhydride, should be considered under a separate agenda item at the next session of the Sub-Commission. Referring to article 24 of the 1988 Convention, 1/ on the application of stricter measures than those required by the Convention, one representative proposed that States of the region of the Sub-Commission should consider applying to substances in tables I and II 2/ stricter measures of control than those provided by the Convention. It was proposed that law enforcement personnel from the region should be alerted to the problem and adequately trained so that they might effectively detect and prevent the diversion of such substances.

37. In view of the importance of determining the origin of drugs seized in the illicit traffic, it was proposed that a regional laboratory should be established in the region covered by the Sub-Commission, with the support of the United Nations Laboratory at Vienna. The regional laboratory would also provide training on a regular basis to the countries of the region. The meeting was informed of the offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to act as host to a regional laboratory. The meeting was informed that a regional laboratory at the headquarters of the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre (ASSTC) at Riyadh, affiliated with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, would become operational in 1990 and could serve as a training centre for the region covered by the Sub-Commission.

38. In order to speed up the exchange of operational information, it was suggested that States in the region covered by the Sub-Commission consider exchanging drug liaison officers. It was pointed out that a rapid exchange of

information was necessary for the investigation of cases of drug trafficking; it was, for instance, a prerequisite for the effective use of the investigative technique of controlled delivery. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that his Government was prepared to exchange liaison officers with neighbouring States, particularly Turkey and Pakistan.

39. Referring to the request for aerial survey by teledetection, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs observed that it was necessary to know the scale and location of illicit cultivation in order to adopt appropriate counter-measures. It was essential to develop a cost-effective methodology for such surveys at the outset. He informed the Sub-Commission that a meeting of the expert group on the detection of illicit narcotic crop cultivation by satellite would be held at Vienna in October 1989, and drew attention to the complex methodological and technical difficulties of identifying illicit cultivation by satellite. With regard to measures for the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation, an expert group meeting would be held in December, which would consider the possibility of identifying ecologically safe herbicides for use in eradication programmes. Illicit drug trafficking, and particularly illicit cultivation and processing, had adverse ecological consequences, such as deforestation and the effects of inconsiderate dumping of precursors. He noted that the proposal to establish a central regional laboratory to serve the countries of the Sub-Commission had already been made several times in the past. The Division would be ready to assist in that matter to the extent of its limited resources. The meeting was informed of the decentralized laboratory training programmes co-ordinated by the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which were already operating at Bangkok for the Asian region and at Buenos Aires for the Latin American and Caribbean region. The establishment of two other regional laboratories, one for the French-speaking and one for the English-speaking countries of Africa, was programmed for the near future.

40. With regard to regional co-operation, many speakers referred to the conclusion of bilateral arrangements of formal agreements with countries of the region and with other countries sharing problems related to drug trafficking, which had led to successful joint operations. They included, in particular, the use of the investigative technique of controlled delivery, which had resulted in the dismantling of drug syndicates operating in the region. Particular reference was made to joint operations undertaken successfully by Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

41. Several speakers stressed the importance that their Governments attached to the training of law enforcement personnel, which was a prerequisite for effective action against illicit drug trafficking. The meeting was informed of the training activities undertaken in Egypt for law enforcement officers from Arabic-speaking, English-speaking and French-speaking African countries. One representative commended the Division of Narcotic Drugs on the training provided to his country's nationals in laboratory techniques for the identification and analysis of drugs of abuse. It was proposed that the Division should expand its training programmes in order to meet the need for assistance by States affected by the illicit traffic.

42. The Division of Narcotic Drugs was commended on its efforts to develop a strategy for training in international drug law enforcement, the preparation of standard training manuals, and the development of curricula. One representative indicated that his Government was prepared to collaborate with the Division in conducting training seminars in different subjects and was looking forward to the implementation of resolution 1 (XXXIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs 3/ regarding the creation of a drug law enforcement training centre in Egypt. The observer for ASSTC informed the Sub-

Commission of the Centre's activities in the field of security studies and training for all Arab States. The observer for the Colombo Plan Bureau also informed the Sub-Commission of the training activities undertaken in the context of the Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan in drug law enforcement, prevention of drug abuse, rehabilitation and after-care.

43. One representative described the successful efforts by his Government to prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to illicit traffic by pharmacies and medical practitioners. That practice had been significantly curtailed following the adoption of measures that confined to medical specialists the authority to prescribe drugs containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

44. One representative deplored the fact that, since 1985, assistance to his country in the fight against drug trafficking had been suspended, despite the urgent need for such assistance; he called on the United Nations to renew its assistance to his country's struggle against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

IV. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

45. For its discussion of item 5, the Sub-Commission had before it a report by the Secretariat. Several speakers described measures being taken in their countries that would enable their Governments to ratify the Convention in the near future. They reiterated the importance their Governments attached to the early entry into force of the 1988 Convention, 1/ in order to provide the international community with an effective instrument to attack, directly and forcefully, the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

46. Many speakers pointed out that some of the provisions of the new Convention were already covered by existing legislation in their countries; with regard to other provisions, speakers referred to new administrative and legal measures adopted or being considered for adoption in their countries that would enable them to apply the measures provided in the Convention and prepare the ground for ratification. Reference was made to the setting up of a national co-ordinating agency that would ensure, in due course, the effective implementation of the Convention. It was proposed that the Sub-Commission should urge its members to take the necessary steps to ratify the Convention at the earliest possible date.

47. The observer for the Colombo Plan Bureau informed the meeting of a proposed regional project to assist member countries of the Colombo Plan to implement the 1988 Convention, 1/ particularly through the harmonization of the appropriate national legislation. He indicated that the Drug Advisory Programme of the Colombo Plan was looking forward to executing the project jointly with the Division of Narcotic Drugs, which had been charged by the Commission of Narcotic Drugs with assisting States in implementing the new Convention.

48. Referring to article 3 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1/ concerning offences and sanctions, several speakers said that their penal codes had been amended to encompass new criminal offences and aggravating circumstances stipulated in the article. Prosecution of drug traffickers had been strengthened by

modifying the penal procedure regarding, for example, with the extension of preventive detention of suspected drug traffickers or the classification of drug offences among non-bailable offences.

49. With regard to article 5, on confiscation, some representatives said that measures recently adopted in their legal systems would enable their judicial authorities to comply with its provisions concerning the tracing, freezing and confiscation of property and assets of drug traffickers. With regard to article 11, on the technique of controlled delivery, one representative, while noting that the technique had not yet been used in his country, said that his Government was prepared to facilitate its use and co-operate with any national agency to that effect. The meeting was informed of two successful controlled delivery operations undertaken jointly by Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan. The urgency for the thorough and prompt application of the provisions of article 12, so as to monitor effectively the movement of substances used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, was stressed by several speakers. It was suggested that, in view of the critical situation in some countries of the region, the strictest measures of control possible should be adopted at the national level so as to prevent the diversion of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to illicit traffic.

50. With reference to articles 5 on confiscation, article 9 on other forms of co-operation and training, article 11 on controlled delivery and article 15 on commercial carriers, the observer from ICPO/INTERPOL informed the meeting of steps taken by his Organization to encourage its member States to apply provisionally the measures provided in the Convention pending its entry into force for each of them. He outlined steps taken in different meetings organized by ICPO/INTERPOL to encourage its member States to sign, ratify and implement the Convention. In this regard he informed the meeting of a message addressed to each member country by the President of ICPO/INTERPOL and of a draft resolution that would be introduced at the next General Assembly of his Organization.

51. In a closing statement, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs, referring to resolution 2 of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, held at Vienna from 25 November to 20 December 1988, 2/ and resolutions 1989/13 and 1989/19 of the Economic and Social Council, observed that pending the entry into force of the Convention, members of the Sub-Commission should take steps to apply provisionally the measures provided therein. The adoption of concerted action by States of the region to comply with the provision of the 1988 Convention would have a mutually reinforcing effect and contribute to the reversal of the trend in illicit drug trafficking.

V. OTHER BUSINESS: ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN FENETYLLINE IN THE REGION

52. For item 6 (c), the Sub-Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat on trafficking in fenetylline (Captagon)(DND/25.SC/1989/3) and a note by the secretariat of INCB entitled "Fenetylline: data submitted by the INCB secretariat in furtherance of decision 3 (XXXIII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs" (DND/25.SC/1989/4).

53. At its 7th meeting it considered a draft resolution (DND/25.SC/1989/L.2) for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, by which it would request the Division of Narcotic Drugs to convene a round-table meeting, as soon as possible, in order to tackle the problems associated with the abuse of and illicit traffic in fenetylline in the region. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution VI. (See also paragraph 61 below.)

VI. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS BEFORE THE SUB-COMMISSION

54. At its 5th meeting, on 4 October, the Sub-Commission approved two draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

55. The first (DND/25.SC/1989/L.2), on the working languages of the Sub-Commission, was sponsored by Egypt, Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia. The second (DND/25.SC/1989/L.3), on reduction of demand and prevention of drug consumption among young persons in the Near and Middle East, was sponsored by Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan and Saudi Arabia. For the texts, see chapter I, section A, draft resolutions I and II.

56. At the same meeting, in response to the announcement by the observers for Qatar and the Syrian Arab Republic that they intended to apply for membership in the Sub-Commission, a draft decision (DND/25.SC/1989/L.4) was approved for adoption by Economic and Social Council through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, sponsored by Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, on the membership of the Sub-Commission. For the text, see chapter I, section B.

57. The Sub-Commission also had before it a number of draft resolutions for adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

58. The first (DND/25.SC/1989/L.5), on provisional application of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Drug Traffic and Psychotropic Substances, sponsored by India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Sweden and Turkey, was approved by the Sub-Commission at its 5th meeting. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution III.

59. The second (DND/25.SC/1989), on measures for reducing the demand for illicit drugs in consuming countries, sponsored by India, was amended by the deletion of a second preambular paragraph reading as follows:

> "Noting that the major consumption areas in respect of illicit drugs originating from or transiting through the region covered by the Sub-Commission are mostly situated outside the region."

At the 56th meeting, the draft resolution was approved as amended. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution IV.

60. The third draft resolution (DND/25.SC/1989/L.7), on interregional counter-measures against illicit drug traffic in the region, sponsored by India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Turkey, was amended by the insertion of the words "and intelligence" between the words "operational" and "nature" and the addition of the words "and intelligence reports" at the end of the operative paragraph. At the 5th meeting, the draft resolution was approved as amended. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution V.

61. The fourth draft resolution (DND/25.SC/1989/L.9), on trafficking in and abuse of fenetylline, sponsored by Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, was amended by the insertion of the phrase "and with the financial support of" between the words "in co-operation with" and "the States and agencies concerned". The draft resolution was approved, as amended, at the 5th meeting. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution VI.

62. The fifth draft resolution (DND/25.SC/1989/L.10), on the establishment and linkage of a computer network between law enforcement authorities of States members of the Sub-Commission, sponsored by Turkey, was approved at the 5th meeting. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution VII.

63. The sixth and eighth draft resolutions (DND/25.SC/1989/L.11 and L.13), sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the establishment of a sub-regional laboratory and on the eradication of illicit crops in the area, were approved at the 7th meeting, on 6 October. For the texts, see chapter I, section C, draft resolutions VIII and X.

64. The seventh draft resolution (DND/25.SC/1989/L.12), sponsored by Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey, on the exchange of drug liaison officers among States members of the Sub-Commission, was approved at the 5th meeting. For the text, see chapter I, section C, draft resolution IX.

65. At its 8th meeting, on 6 October, the Sub-Commission adopted a decision setting out the provisional agenda for its twenty-seventh session, which would be the next one to be held in the region. For the text, see chapter I, section D.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

66. At its 8th meeting, on 6 October, the Sub-Commission adopted the report on its twenty-fifth session.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

67. The Sub-Commission held its twenty-fifth session at Ankara from 2 to 6 October 1989. On behalf of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs opened the session. Statements were made at the 1st plenary meeting by the Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, the Chairman and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs. A message from the Prime Minister of Turkey was also read out. The Sub-Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of those who had given their lives in the struggle against illicit drug trafficking.

68. The Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey welcomed to Ankara the members of and observers to the Sub-Commission, noting that Ankara lay on the main overland route between Asia and Western Europe, which was the second major market for illicit opiates and a major source of psychotropic substances. He stressed the need to pursue the fight against illicit drug trafficking on all fronts and said that his Government was looking forward to enhanced bilateral and multilateral co-operation to that effect.

69. The Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs stated that the Division had been continuously promoting regional co-operation to combat illicit drug trafficking and that he was accordingly pleased to see the enlarged membership of the Sub-Commission. He noted that the network for regional co-operation under the aegis of the United Nations included all the regions of the world, following the establishment of the regional meetings of the heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEA) for the African, Asian and Pacific, and Latin American regions, as well as a forthcoming European HONLEA meeting, including both Eastern and Western European States. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1/ provided the international community with an effective instrument for combating illicit drug trafficking. He urged the members of the Sub-Commission to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as they were able to do so and to apply the provisions of the Convention provisionally, pending its entry into force for each of them.

70. The Chairman noted that the new composition of the Sub-Commission, which now encompassed most States in the region, opened new avenues for regional co-operation. Such co-operation was an essential factor in countering the destructive operation and activities of organized drug crime, which had infiltrated all countries of the region, undermining tradition, culture and the socio-economic and political order. In order to suppress illicit drug trafficking effectively, it was necessary to build bridges between drug law enforcement agencies within the region and those outside the region. He stressed the importance of adopting, as a matter of high priority, comprehensive measures for reducing and preventing demand, with particular emphasis on the young. He noted that, for the first time since 1985, the Sub-Commission was holding its meeting in one of the capital cities of the region and hoped that it would henceforth be able to reconvene in the region every year.

71. In a special message, the Prime Minister of Turkey stressed the crucial importance of close co-operation between countries of the region in combating illicit drug trafficking. He paid special tribute to the central role played by the United Nations, which had established a forum in which all aspects of the problem could be tackled, and had provided a legal framework, technical expertise and financial and other resources.

B. Attendance

72. The following States members of the Sub-Commission were represented: Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

73. The following States sent observers: Bahrain, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, United States of America and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

74. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Division of Narcotic Drugs.

75. The International Narcotics Control Board was represented.

76. The following intergovernmental organizations sent representatives: Arab Security Studies and Training Centre; Colombo Plan Bureau; Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior; International Criminal Police Organization.

77. The following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category II) was represented: International Road Transport Union.

C. Election of officers

78. At its 1st meeting, on 2 October 1988, the Sub-Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Erdem Erner (Turkey)
First Vice-Chairman:	M. M. Bhatnagar (India)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Ahmed F. Nada (Egypt)

D. Agenda

79. The agenda of the twenty-fifth session, as adopted by the Sub-Commission at its 1st meeting was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Review of recent trends in the illicit drug traffic.
4. Regional measures to combat the illicit drug traffic.
5. Provisional application of the 1988 Convention.
6. Other business:
   (a) Future sessions;
   (b) Provisional agenda for the next session;
   (c) Fenetylline (Captagon);
   (d) Other matters.
7. Recommendations.
8. Adoption of the report of the Sub-Commission.

E. Closure of the session

80. At the 8th meeting, on 6 October, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran offered to act as host to the Sub-Commission at Teheran at its twenty-seventh session. The Chairman accepted the offer on behalf of the Sub-Commission.

81. A closing statement was made by the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs. The participants thanked the Government of Turkey for acting as host to the Sub-Commission and the Division of Narcotic Drugs for organizing and servicing its twenty-fifth session.

Notes

1/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

2/ Ibid., annex.

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 5 (E/1989/23-E/CN.7/1989/21), chap. X, sect. A.

Annex

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